

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     GEORGE 02054 301855Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 L-01 PRS-01 /047 W

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R 301730Z AUG 77

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5214

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL GEORGETOWN 2054

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GY, PINT, SU

SUBJECT: GUYANA PROTESTS SOVIET MEDDLING

REF: A. GEORGETOWN 2013; B. GEORGETOWN 2025

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE GOG, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HAS PROTESTED TO THE SOVIET CHARGE CONCERNING SOVIET MEDDLING IN GUYANESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY THEIR ROLE IN CONVINCING OPPOSITION LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN TO CALL THE CURRENT SUGAR STRIKE. THE PROTEST WAS LONG OVERDUE, BUT IS PROBABLY INTENDED MORE AS A TACTICAL MOVE BY BURNHAM TO PERSUADE THE SOVIETS TO ABANDON JAGAN THAN IT IS--AT THIS MOMENT--AN INDICATION OF A SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN SOVIET-GOG RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER WILL CALL ME AT NOON AUGUST 27

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CONCERNING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE EARLIER THAT DAY (REF. B) CENTERING ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, ANDREW YOUNG'S VISIT AND US-GOG RELATIONS (EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED A TAPE TRANSCRIPT OF THE CONFERENCE AND IS TRANSCRIBING IT), AND DURING THE CONVERSATION SAID THAT HE FELT VERY GOOD; HE HAD JUST DONE SOMETHING HE HAD BEEN WANTING TO DO FOR A LONG TIME. HE HAD CALLED IN THE SOVIET CHARGE, VICTOR

TKATCHENKO (AMBASSADOR VLADAMIR KOTENEV HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM GEORGETOWN SINCE JULY), AND TOLD HIM THAT IF HE OR MEMBERS OF HIS MISSION CONTINUED TO INTERFERE IN GUYANESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DECLARE ONE OR ALL OF THEM PERSONA NON GRATA.

2. WILLS SAID THAT THE GOG HAD OBTAINED CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN MEDDLING. HE NAMED VALARIE KOVAL (BELIEVED TO BE KGB OFFICIAL) AS BEING THE MAIN OFFENDER, BUT SAID THAT SEVERAL OTHER SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE ALSO INVOLVED. IN DESCRIBING THE SITUATION, WILLS SAID THAT HE AND BURNHAM HAD OBTAINED CUBAN HELP (DURING THEIR TRIP TO CUBA) IN PERSUADING JAGAN NOT TO CALL A SUGAR STRIKE. THE CUBANS HAD TOLD JAGAN THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE "UNSOCIALIST" IN GUYANA. INITIALLY JAGAN FOUND THIS ARGUMENT PERSUASIVE, BUT HIS WIFE, JANET, BACKED BY THE SOVIETS TALKED HIM INTO REVERSING HIMSELF AND CALLING THE STRIKE. ALSO, THEY HAD PLANNED THE CALL FOR A NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT. WILLS COMMENTED THAT JAGAN WOULD HAVE BEEN "A DUNCE" HAD HE STUCK BY HIS DECISION NOT TO STRIKE. HIS POLITICAL SURVIVAL DEPENDED UPON HIS CHALLENGE TO BURNHAM. IF JAGAN HAD NOT ACTED TO HALT THE SUGAR INDUSTRY HIS CREDIBILITY WITH HIS CONSTITUENCY WOULD HAVE FURTHER ERODED.

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3. COMMENT: THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN MEDDLING IN GUYANA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS IS NOT NEWS. THE NEWS IS THAT BURNHAM FINALLY AUTHORIZED HIS FONMIN TO PROTEST. FONMIN WILLS HAS LONG COMPLAINED IN PRIVATE ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY. WE HAD LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT KOVAL, THE PRIME MOVER IN THIS MATTER, DEPARTED ON A SUDDEN "VACATION" ON AUGUST 25 OR 26. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET MEDDLING SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR SERIOUS STRAINS IN GOG-SOVIET RELATIONS, I DO NOT THINK THIS WILL HAPPEN. THE GUYANESE PREVIOUSLY HAVE WARNED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN MILD TERMS, BUT BURNHAM'S SELF-GENERATED NEED TO ACHIEVE RECOGNITION AS A REVOLUTIONARY AND A SOCIALIST APPEARS TO HAVE RESTRAINED HIM FROM DOING ANYTHING DRASIC AGAINST THE SOVIETS. HIS APPROACH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN AIMED AT TRYING TO CONVINCE THEM THAT GUYANESE COOPERATIVE SOCIALISM IS A VALID APPROACH TO AN EGALITATIAN SOCIETY. UNFORTUNATELY, BURNHAM DOES NOT APPEAR TO UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIET INSISTENCE ON "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM" AS THE ONLY TRUE SOCIALISM IS THEIR WAY OF EXTENDING INFLUENCE AND CONTROL. I VIEW THE PROTEST AS A TACTICAL ATTEMPT BY BURNHAM TO INDUCE

THE SOVIETS TO PERSUADE JAGAN TO END THE SUGAR STRIKE.

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## Message Attributes

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